Measures for replantation of rubber trees in Kerala

603. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about one-sixth of the area under rubber farming in Kerala have either senile or less productive trees which needs to be replanted; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what measures are being taken for the replantation of such rubber trees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The total rubber area in Kerala which requires replanting in 2010 comes to around 48,000 ha. *i.e.* 10% of the total rubber area in the State. The replantation is being promoted through the Rubber Plantation Development Scheme in the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The scheme provides free technical assistance for replanting and financial assistance of Rs.19,500/- per ha. for replanting an area upto 2 ha.

Indo-US Trade Policy Forum meeting

604. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a ministerial level meeting of the India-United States Trade Policy Forum was held at New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held in the meeting and outcome thereof;

(c) whether the United States has urged the Indian Government to check copycat Pharmaceutical drugs, movies and music and also to strengthen its Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) regime; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government on such views of the United States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Sixth Ministerial meeting of the India-US Trade Policy Forum (TPF) was held at New Delhi on 26th October, 2009. The meeting was Co-chaired by Hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Anand Sharma on the Indian side and United States Trade Representative Ambassador Ronald Kirk on the Units States side. During the meeting the two Governments decided to continue their bilateral trade policy dialogue under the five Focus Groups: Agriculture, Innovation and Creativity, Investment, Services and Tariff and Non-Tariff Barriers. The two Governments agreed to work together on a framework for promoting cooperation in trade and investment.